

MARCH MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

I represented Colorado Wing at a Buckley AFB Environmental Protection meeting and training session. It was a very interesting program. The training session was attended by most of the organizations on Buckley and representatives of the Department of Military Affairs. The training session consisted of information about the need for protection of the environment that was contained in a number of laws that Buckley must follow. The attendees were asked to help in these areas of concern.

They talked about protection of two endangered Species. The Burrowing Owl and the Black Tailed Prairie Dog were considered a serious problem. It appears that the Burrowing Owl annually arrives at Buckley in April to nest and lay eggs. If the Owl chooses an area where a new building is being built, construction may be stopped until the Owls leave.

There has been efforts to guide the Black Tailed Prairie Dogs into areas away from the construction. There was a little confusion here since they are protected, but there have been contracts to collect them and feed them to Ferrets.

After the training, we were taken on a bus tour of the base. The area that they seemed to be most concerned with is what they called the wetlands. As you drive around Buckley, especially on the way out to the Mississippi gate, you can see the wetlands on both sides of the road. There are trees and reeds in the flood plane area. One area of concern was the new base housing that is scheduled for construction. The dependents may create a problem that they didn't have before.

We in CAP are required to complete some forms when we plan an activity on the base to ensure the Environmental Section that we will not affect the status quo.

Membership

We have had a number of visitors, but no new members.

OPS/ES

We have completed most of the first sequence of air crew training. Still need to finish the flight training for the Mission Pilot SQTRs that was delayed because of weather. Wing has extended the mission so that we can complete them on the next few weekends.

TRAINING

The worst possible problem is the loss of **Captain Jim Smith** as our Ops Training Officer. Jim's effort in air crew and other training has made Black Sheep Senior Squadron the envy of Colorado Wing. The loss of his efforts will definitely be missed. I have asked **Colonel Jim Cooksey** to take on the leadership of this section and hope you will all cooperate with him. We have already had **2Lt Craig "Pat" Privette** offer to help.

As I said, **Captain Jim Smith** will be greatly missed, and I want to extend best wishes and good luck on his new job.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Made a few changes in the professional development report. **Captain Don Johnson** has decided to drop the Flight Operations Specialty Track and start the Administration and Communications Specialty Tracks.

Norman G. Kholos
Norman G. Kholos, Colonel, CAP
Commander
Black Sheep Senior Squadron